

CUISSC NO DATE

11/12/76
URU - CULTELLI

*from Fraser
group annex*

THE SITUATION OF THE URUGUAY JOURNALIST ANDRÉS CULTELLI

ANDRÉS CULTELLI is a well known political leader and journalist in Uruguay. He is 55 years old, married with four daughters. Arrested in Buenos Aires on March 31, 1975, at 10 p.m., two hours later the police began towards him the most fierce tortures at the Investigation Headquarters of San Justo, Buenos Aires Province. Starting by the application of "picana eléctrica" (electrical shocks) and "plantones" / (keeping him standing up) permanently during 5 days until April 5.

They interrupted the torture the 6 of April because Cultelli lost his consciousness. Next day they changed the torment: using the "shmarino" (submerging in water victim's head until asphyxia limit).

Cultelli, was also submitted to strong beats fracturing his ribs.

Maintaining his eyes bandaged, he suffered pricks with needles.

Uruguayan and Argentine military and policemen together, carried-through the torture; this facts proves once more the collusion between military and police force in the South Cone.

Afterwards, Cultelli was notified that Dirección Nacional de Migraciones of Argentina (Immigration Service) had decided his expulsion as undesirable foreigner. The resolution is dangerous to Cultelli's life, as he would be deported to Uruguay.

In the government procedures there is really not a "due process in law". In Argentina lawyers do not dare to defend the political prisoners (Many lawyers had been murdered, kidnaped or forced to abandon the country).

Furthermore, in order to avoid Cultelli's deportation to Uruguay it is necessary that another country grant him asylum. The risk is real.

Based on Argentina National Security Law Cultelli, besides was blamed of using false identity and illegal association.

Although the Federal Attorney demanded a penalty of five years imprisonment the Federal Judge condemned him to 14. The penalty is exaggerated. In the worst hypothesis for each transgression ought to correspond 8 years imprisonment as a maximum.

Cultelli has never been condemned in Argentina.

Certainly there is, a very serious political discrimination case: Cultelli, as all others political prisoners in Argentina, lacks legal advice of his own.

Therefore appeal against the sentence dictated by the Federal Judge (named by the "Junta Militar") will not succeed regardless of the real guilt of Cultelli.

Cultelli is jailed in "Unidad Carcelaria N° 2" located in Sierra Chica, Olavarría south of Buenos Aires Province. He is submitted to a particular strict system: without any medical attention; underfed as the rest of the political prisoners in Argentina. In his case he has a great probability of becoming blind.

The evident collusion of Argentina and Uruguayan police force, army and intelligence Service, make us fear any kind of illegality including murder in Cultelli's case.

You should remember the outstanding cases of Elsa Michelini, Hector Gutierrez B and Mr. and Mrs. Whitlaw Blanco kidnaping and assassination.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☐ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

80F178

21/185